

### REMARKS

Upon entry of the instant amendment, claims 1-14 remain pending in the above-identified application and stand ready for further action on the merits.

In this response, claim 8 has been amended and new claims 9-14 have been added.

Claim 8 is rewritten as a method claim. New claims 9-12 correspond to claims 2-5, respectively. New claims 13-14 are added to recite amount of the claimed moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent to be added based on the disclosures at paragraph [0103] at page 38 and paragraph [0146] at page 48 (in connection with species "sanitary articles" to be elected) of the specification, respectively.

Accordingly, the present amendments to the claims do not introduce new matter into the application as originally filed. As such entry of the instant amendment and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited at present.

#### Restriction Requirement:

The Examiner has required restriction between groups I – III as set forth on page 2 of the Office Action.

For the purpose of examination of the present application, Applicants elect, with traverse, **Group III, Claim 8<sup>1</sup> (and Claims 9-14).**

It is noted that in this amendment, ii) claim 8 (a use claim) is amended to read a method claim in view of the U.S. patent practice and ii) new method claims 9-14 depends on claim 8. Thus, **claim 8-19** should belong to **Group III** as set forth in the restriction requirement.

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<sup>1</sup> It is noted that "*Group III, Claim 2, drawn to use of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent*" (emphasis added) as set forth at page 2 of the Office Action should read "*Group III, Claim 8, drawn to use of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent*" (emphasis added), since there was not claim 9 in the original claims and original claim 8 was direct to use of the moisture- or protein-adsorbability imparting agent.

The requirement is traversed because (1) there are overlapping technical features between the three groups of claims and (2) there would be no undue burden on the Examiner to examine the three groups of claims.

Election of Species Requirement:

Also, for the purpose of examination of the present application, it necessary, Applicants elect the species of “**sanitary articles.**” **The claims which are readable on the elected species are claims 8-14.** At a minimum, the other species should be considered for rejoinder once the claim in connection with the elected species “sanitary articles” is allowed.

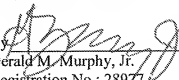
Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Toyohiko Konno, Registration No. at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

- ☐ Attached is a Petition for Extension of Time.
- ☐ Attached hereto is the fee transmittal listing the required fees.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

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